

# THE HERALD.



## AGRICULTURAL.

### The Best Breed of Swine.

When I first considered the importance of changing my stock of hogs, the question presented itself, what I should select, as breeders all claimed their stock was the best. So I concluded to commence on the Magpie—large coarse, white hogs, with a few spots on their bodies. But after a careful trial, I was convinced that this was not the hog that would suit me, so I crossed them with the Poland China or Butler county hog. This added some good qualities to the Magpie stock but did not improve in any respect the Poland China. The pigs were strong and grew rapidly, but did not fatten even. Some that were bred in the Poland China blood were fat and ready for market at ten or twelve months old, and the rest of the lot had to be kept until nearly eighteen months old. So with this result I thought it best to continue my experiments, so I selected some of the best Poland China blood, then added to it the improved Berkshire, and soon found that I had gained the point of my experience. It seemed to increase the size of the Berkshire, and still left their superior fattening qualities. So I fed this cross long enough to satisfy me that they are the hog for the farmer who does not pretend to breed pure strains. But I have come to the conclusion—after carefully investigating the different theories of breeding—that no cross breed is as perfect and evenly as the one strain in its purity, so I have directed my undivided attention to the Berkshire. My breeding stock is imported, and I find my pigs are strong even when young, and remain so till fattened. So in conclusion I will just say the Berkshire is my hog, for I have found from experience that they are the most profitable breeders.—*Cor. Am. Swine Journal.*

### Ashes for Orchards.

The point to which we now call attention is, that our farmers and fruit-growers have ignored, or rather have been ignorant of, the importance of wood ashes as a vegetable stimulant, and as the leading constituent of plants. Even coal ashes now thrown away as useless, having been shown, both by experience and analysis, to possess a fair share of alkaline value, we will relate only one experiment: Some twenty-five years ago we treated an hollow-pippin apple tree as follows: The hollow, to the height of eight feet, was filled and rammed with a compost of wood ashes, garden mold and a little waste lime (carbonate). The filling was securely fastened in by boards. The next year the crop of sound fruit was sixteen bushels from an old shell of a tree that had borne nothing of any account for some time, and for seven years after filling, the old pippin tree continued to flourish and bear well.—*Scientific American.*

### Preparation of Whitewash.

Whitewash is one of the most valuable articles in the world, when properly applied. It prevents not only the decay of wood, but conduces greatly to the healthiness of all buildings, whether wood or stone. Out-buildings and fences, when not painted, should be supplied once or twice a year with a good coat of whitewash, which should be prepared in the following way: Take a clean, water-tight barrel, or other suitable cask, and put into it half a bushel of lime. Slack it by pouring water over it, boiling hot, and in sufficient quantity to cover it five inches deep, and stir it briskly until thoroughly slacked. When the slacking has been effected, dissolve it in water, and add two pounds of sulphate of zinc, and one of common salt. These will cause the wash to harden and prevent its cracking, which gives an unseemly appearance to the work. If desirable, a beautiful cream color may be communicated to the above wash, by adding three pounds of yellow ochre, or a good pearl lead color by the addition of lamp, vine, or ivory black. For fawn color, add four pounds umber, Turkish or American, the latter is the cheapest, one pound Indian red, and one pound common lamp-black. For common stone color, add four pounds of raw umber, and two pounds of lamp black. This wash may be applied with a common whitewash brush, and will be found much superior both in appearance and durability, to common whitewash.

The Patrons of Tennessee will this year reduce their cotton crop one-half, and increase their corn crop one-half.

### The Price of Hogs.

An intelligent writer maintains that the price of hogs this summer must remain at a high figure. He presents the following facts: The reports from all parts, from November 1, 1874, to March 20, 1875, show a decrease of about 4,000,000 pounds, while from New York, from January 1st, to March 20th, 1875, the exports are about 6,000,000 pounds greater than last. Taking this exhibit of the hog crop, and it is obvious that the summer prices will rule high, it will be profitable for the farmers to feed well and bring to market a better quality of stock, as the prices will surely warrant it. Present prices will be maintained, and probably be higher for meats and much higher for lard.

### Founder Remedy.

A correspondent of the *Agriculturist* says: As soon as the horse is found to be stiff, swab the legs and feet with hot water—so hot that the hand can bear to touch it, but not so hot as to scald. After a short time the legs should be rubbed dry, and the horse gently exercised. Have never known this remedy to fail. A correspondent of the *Rural Sun* says: Founder in its worst form can be cured by standing your horse all day in water deep enough to come up over his back. Running water is best.

### The Tobacco Fly.

The following treatment of tobacco plant beds comes highly recommended from Virginia: Saturate a handful of rags in coal oil and place them in the bottom of the bucket to be filled with bottom plaster. This is soon saturated with the odor of oil which is scattered over the tobacco plants infested by the fly. The plaster acts as a fertilizer as well as to drive off the insect.

A very good board fence can be made by setting the posts say eleven and one-half feet apart, and spiking on battens, leaving twice the thickness of the boards to be used between the battens and the posts. As many spikes must be used as the number of posts in the fence, driving them through the battens into the posts where it is intended that the lower edges of the boards are to come. Then twelve-foot boards can be slipped in like bars, lapping the ends by those of the next panel, and the fence will be found as substantial as if the boards were nailed to the posts, and more convenient, as every panel is a set of bars. This fence is not so easily injured by frosts as the ordinary board fence, there being no nails to break when the posts are moved by freezing and thawing.—*Cor. Country Gentleman.*

We published not long since the letter of Mr. Porter, the Master of Nebraska State Grange, detailing the extreme destitution in portions of that State, caused by ravages of chinch bugs and grasshoppers; as the letter of our own worthy Master, calling upon Kentucky Patrons to send something to the relief of members in that State. The distress is no less in Missouri. These people are really in need, and we should help them at all events, but being mostly farmers and Patrons, our Granges will surely not neglect the call. A trifle from each member will amount to considerable when told in the aggregate. We read of a farmer in Cass county, Mo., being without money and driven by hunger, carrying off a sack of flour from a store without leave. The merchant pursued him with an officer, but finding children at home eating the raw flour, was induced to return without it.

Many are the ways in which, in poultry keeping, little losses are sustained which in the end often amount to comparative failure. Exposure of young broods to inclement weather is so gross a fault, and is so plainly seen to be a losing operation, that a call of attention to care in this regard seems scarcely necessary; yet chickens often suffer from cold and dampness when we little think they do. The present spring has been cold and backward, and therefore very unfavorable to the rearing of early chickens. In such weather the hens should be cooped up, as the chickens will thus be less exposed to cold winds. Often have we been reminded this season that the wind needs tempering to the young chicks as well as to the lamb. Close coops are a great protection, and except at times of heavy rains, or in case of danger from rats, it is most convenient, as just as well for the chickens so far as health and comfort are concerned, not to use boards for the flooring of the coop. But each day they should be moved a few feet to fresh ground to insure cleanliness and exemption in a great measure from vermin. At times, when the weather is unusually rough, and the chicks stand crying and shivering in the cold, quiet, peace and comfort may be secured by throwing over the coop a scrap of old carpet so as to darken it and cause the hen to brood the chicks as if night had come on.—*Practical Farmer.*

### HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

A mixture of oil and ink is a good thing to clean kid boots with; the first softens and the latter blackens them. After windows are fresh and free from all dust, rub them with old, soft, crumpled newspaper. The glass will be as clear as crystal. A medical paper says that "allspice is a sovereign remedy for croup, cutting the phlegm almost instantly, and inducing free breathing."

A simple remedy for removing freckles is a pint of sour milk and a small quantity of horseradish. Let the mixture stand over night, and use it as a wash three times a day until the freckles disappear. COAL OIL STOVES.—A great many families find convenience and profit in using these stoves during the heated season. They are safe if a good quality of oil is burned in them.

The soft corn occurs between the toes and is produced in the same manner as the common corn; but, in consequence of the moisture existing in this situation, the thickened scarf-skin becomes saturated and remains permanently soft. The soft corn is best relieved by cutting away the thick skin with a pair of scissors, avoiding to wound the flesh; then touch it with a drop of fir's balsam. Caustic, as an application for the cure of corns, is a remedy which should be used with great caution, and would be better left altogether in the hands of the medical men.—*N. Y. News.*

OMELETTES.—Take six eggs to one gill of cream, beat the eggs very thick, add gradually the cream, a little pepper and salt, and two tablespoonfuls of grated ham or a little chopped parsley, onion or any desired seasoning, having ready a pan of hot lard, and fry to a light brown. When done fold one-half to the other and send to the table hot. The *American Agriculturist* says that white rolls should be mixed and set to rise the evening before, and made into rolls half an hour before baking in the morning. A pint of warm milk fresh from the cow, with salt, and half a cup of yeast stirred up quite stiff with flour, and moulded until it springs under the touch of the fingers, makes a most delicious, light, short roll.

CHARLOTTE ROSSE.—Line a plain mold with sponge cake, cut to fit exactly; brush over the inside very lightly with the white of an egg, and put it upon ice. Beat up one pint of rich cream with one ounce of isinglass (previously dissolved in sufficient water to sweeten it.) Sweeten and flavor to taste. Pour this into the mold, cover it with a piece of sponge cake cut exactly the size. Ice it and turn it out very carefully. To COOK DRIED BEEF.—Have very thin, and if very salt, put it over the fire with a little water, pour it off as soon as it is boiling hot, and if not over-salted add new milk enough to just cover and make a thickening of two eggs well beaten, one spoonful of flour, and one cup of cream. Allow it to boil up once, and serve with toast, baked potatoes and boiled eggs. This is excellent for breakfast or dinner.

A FINE YEAST.—As I am a new worker in the field of housekeeping, I have tried a good many kinds of yeast, and I have found one that will excel them all; so please publish for other new housekeepers. Boil two ounces of hops in four quarts of water for half an hour. Strain this and let it cool to milk warm, when add a small handful of salt and a half a pound of sugar. Take sufficient of this liquid to beat smooth one pound of flour; then mix all together. Leave this near the fire for two days, stirring often; then add three pounds of mashed potatoes. Stir this frequently until the next day, when it should be bottled. Two tablespoonfuls of this yeast is sufficient for three or four loaves of bread. Always shake well before using. No yeast is required to raise it, but I leave a little of the old yeast to put in with the new, as it makes it better, I think.—*Mrs. E. J. Langdon.*

FRIED TOMATOES.—Slice rather thickly; salt, pepper and roll in flour; then fry brown in butter kept to a boiling heat all the time. HOP YEAST FOR WARM WEATHER.—Two quarts of water, twelve potatoes, a good handful of hops; press the water from the bag of hops when the potatoes are done, and mash fine; add one teaspoonful of white sugar, a handful of salt, tablespoonful of ginger; strain through a colander and boil a few minutes; add yeast to rise when cool; no soda is required to make this bread. This yeast will keep in hot weather until used.

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